

July 1, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

Handwritten signature/initials

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: **APRIL 1, 2003 BOARD MOTION - FOOD STAMP BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING ACTIVE COMBAT DUTY- UPDATE**

This is to provide your Board with an update to my memo of June 2, 2003 regarding my Department's efforts to ensure that families of military personnel serving combat duty retain Food Stamp benefits.

In my last report, I advised your Board that my staff submitted a copy of proposed federal bill language to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to exclude combat and hazard duty pay in the determination of Food Stamp benefits. The USDA has not responded to our proposal; therefore, the County's Washington representatives have begun consulting with members of the County's legislative delegation to determine the feasibility of pursuing an amendment to the federal Food Stamp Act to accomplish our goal.

My staff further researched the Department of Defense Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) which provides a cash allotment of up to \$500 per month to low-income military families so these families do not need to rely on Food Stamp benefits. Families are eligible to FSSA if their household income is within the gross income limits established under the Food Stamp program. Therefore, under current law, combat and hazard duty pay would render military families ineligible to FSSA to the same extent that they would lose eligibility to food stamps. Similarly, the language which we have prepared to amend the Food Stamp Act to exempt this income would also apply to FSSA.

Future reports on this effort will be included in federal legislative updates submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer.

BY:ve

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Auditor Controller